

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

NORTH ESPLANADE HISTORIC DISTRICT

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

203-515 North Esplanade

CITY, TOWN

Leavenworth

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

No. 2 Martha Keys

STATE

Kansas

CODE

20

COUNTY

Leavenworth

CODE

103

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☒ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED (park)☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☒ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple Public and Private

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Leavenworth County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Leavenworth

STATE

Kansas 66048

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1973

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kansas State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

STATE

Kansas 66612

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 4

PAGE 1

4.

Leavenworth City Commission  
City Hall  
Leavenworth, Kansas 66048

Francis A. McCann  
203 N. Esplanade  
Leavenworth, Kansas

Clyde M. Stewart  
213 N. Esplanade  
Leavenworth, Kansas

Jim L. McClure  
219 N. Esplanade  
Leavenworth, Kansas

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore L. Vosseler  
303 N. Esplanade  
Leavenworth, Kansas

Mr. and Mrs. William J. Doman  
309 N. Esplanade  
Leavenworth, Kansas

Ralph C. Wilkerson  
1035 S. Broadway  
Leavenworth, Kansas

Mr. and Mrs. Albert G. Inkman  
321 N. Esplanade  
Leavenworth, Kansas

Mr. Robert D. McGuire  
403 N. Esplanade  
Leavenworth, Kansas

Mr. Lamar Weaver, Jr.  
409 N. Esplanade  
Leavenworth, Kansas

Mrs. F.C. Bannon  
417 N. Esplanade  
Leavenworth, Kansas

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NP USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET 2

ITEM NUMBER 4

PAGE 2

4.

Mr. Arthur J. Stanley, Jr.  
501 N. Esplanade  
Leavenworth, Kansas

Mr. Travis W. White  
507 N. Esplanade  
Leavenworth, Kansas

Mr. and Mrs. Warren E. Hanson  
1858 Ottawa  
Leavenworth, Kansas



## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

—EXCELLENT

X GOOD

—FAIR

—DETERIORATED

—RUINS

—UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

—UNALTERED

X ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

X ORIGINAL SITE

—MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The North Esplanade Historic District is composed of fourteen residences on four contiguous blocks which face North Esplanade park overlooking a bend in the Missouri river and the park itself. The district is located just to the north of the levee site and commercial area of downtown Leavenworth and has always been a popular residential area for upper and middle class businessmen. North Esplanade, which was formerly called Main, is on a hill running north-south and begins its slope at the levee site rising until Pottawatomie street where it levels off before it begins to drop off at Ottawa street. The district is bounded on the south by Seneca street which has traditionally been the start of the residential area. The northern line has been drawn at Ottawa Street where several nonconforming buildings and the slope of the road visually end the district.

The earliest extant residences on North Esplanade date from the late 1860's and the early 1870's. These include the C.W.P. Collins boarding house, the E.H. Durfee house, the Edward Stillings house, the Lewis Burnes house, and the Alvin Woodworth house. These houses with the exception of the L-shaped Collins boarding house, which has a mansard roof, are similarly proportioned two story brick structures with hip roofs and wide bracketed cornices. The D.R. Anthony house and the Samuel Cochran house which were joined after the turn of the century to form the George Ross house date from this period and seem to have followed the building type described above.

The next major construction period on North Esplanade was in the 1880's when the E.E. Henry house, the Ketcheson house, the William Small house (No. 313), the L.G. Terry house, the Elmore W. Snyder house and the Winfield Denton house were built. The Henry, Ketcheson, Snyder, and Denton houses are large two and one-half story irregularly shaped frame houses while the L.G. Terry house and William Small house (No. 313) are smaller two story houses that have been covered with modern siding.

The last major period of building activity was after the turn of the century when several of the existing houses such as the E.H. Durfee house, the William Small house (No. 321), and the George Ross house underwent extensive exterior alterations. The George Ross house was formed at this time from two neighboring two story residences dating from the 1870's. The exterior was stuccoed to give a uniform appearance, a new roof was placed over the joined structures and Georgian Revival details were applied especially at the main doorway in response to the then fashionable style. Georgian Revival details and stucco were also used to modernize the E.H. Durfee house. The William Small house (No. 321) was also stuccoed and reroofed with red tile. Cosmetic alterations were probably completed at about this same time to the Burnes and the Woodworth houses.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NP USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

103 - CONTINUATION SHEET 3

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

3020-7.

Buildings and sites contributing to the character of the district:

- 0048 1. C.W.P. Collins Boarding House (203 N. Esplanade): c. 1872  
1½ stories, brick, mansard roof with gabled dormers, 1 story wood porch on east facade.
- 0033 2. E.E. Henry House (213 N. Esplanade): c. 1880  
2½ stories, clapboarded, 1 story wood veranda across east facade, 2 story bay on south.
- 0006 3. E.H. Durfee House (219 N. Esplanade): c. 1872 with major exterior re-modelling early 20th Century  
2 stories, originally brick Italian Villa, now stuccoed with some applied Georgian Revival details
- 0034 4. Edward Stillings House (303 N. Esplanade): mid 1870's  
2 stories, brick with elaborate 1 story wood veranda on east facade
- 0035 5. Ketcheson House (309 N. Esplanade): c. 1882  
2 stories, clapboarded with octagonal tower and rounded veranda on east facade
- 0076 6. William Small House (313 N. Esplanade): c. 1880's  
2 stories, wood frame, modern siding, one story wood veranda on east facade
- 0075 7. L.G. Terry House (317 N. Esplanade):  
2 stories, wood frame, modern siding, wood porch not original to house
- 0037 8. William Small House (321 N. Esplanade):  
2 stories, exterior extensively remodelled in 20th Century, stuccoed, red tile roof on both house and L-shaped porch.
- 0038 9. Lewis Burnes House (403 N. Esplanade): late 1860's  
2 stories, brick, simple Federal style detailing
- 0039 10. Elmore W. Snyder House (409 N. Esplanade): mid 1880's  
2½ stories, clapboarded, rounded tower on northeast corner, one story porch across east facade

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NP USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET 4

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

7.

417

-0036

11. George Ross House (419 N. Esplanade): early 20th Century originally two houses built in the early 1870's that were joined sometime after 1915, the facades were stuccoed, the roofline changed and covered with red tile, and Georgian Revival details and sun porch added.

-0047

12. Alvin Woodworth House (501 N. Esplanade): mid 1860's 2 stories, brick, hip roof with captain's walk, Georgian Revival doorway and one story room on northeast corner not original to house

-0040

13. James McCahon House (507 N. Esplanade): 2½ stories, clapboarded, 1 story screened porch across east facade not original to house

-0041

14. Winfield Denton House (515 N. Esplanade): mid 1880's 2½ stories, wood frame with modern siding, some of the wood detailing remains uncovered by the siding

-0005

15. North Esplanade Park part of the original 1856 town plan, the park is grass-covered with most trees located along the street; children's playground equipment is placed at the south end. Park benches are permanently emplaced facing the river about 15-20 feet back from the bluff line.

Nonconforming intrusions detracting from the integrity of the district:

-0012

16. Charles Durfee House (207 N. Esplanade): 1 story, wood frame, modern siding with many additions to west

-0009

17. 517 N. Esplanade: 2 story, brick apartment building, set back behind housing line maintained throughout the district; possibly a modernized auxiliary building



# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The North Esplanade Historic District is a four-block long residential area fronting on a riverside park just north of the early commercial and industrial area of Leavenworth. The large houses in the district reflect the different periods of growth and prosperity in Leavenworth and present an interesting montage of the city's development and history.

The area around Leavenworth was the first in Kansas for Anglo settlement; Fort Leavenworth was established in 1827. The city of Leavenworth was founded in June, 1854, and was the first town organized in Kansas Territory. It became the gateway to the territory for both goods and settlers. Leavenworth received the first of whatever came into Kansas. The city grew rapidly, boasting 5,000 inhabitants by 1857 and 10,000 by 1858. The Civil War brought prosperity and by 1865 the population had risen to 20,000, but after the war Leavenworth experienced hard times. Some important sought after railroad connections were lost to competitors. The population decreased. But with the development and expansion of manufacturing in the 1870's and 1880's growth began again. Iron foundries, flour mills, furniture factories, wagon factories, and other industries provided employment for many and shipped products all over Kansas and the midwest. Leavenworth was the leading industrial city in Kansas in the 1870's. By 1882 the population had climbed back to 19,000, but after the early 1890's decline again set in as many of Leavenworth's industries closed. The growth and prosperity of recent decades has now increased Leavenworth's population to 32,000.

The street known as North Esplanade was laid out in the original town plat. The area between Esplanade and the Missouri river bluffs has apparently always been a park while the west side of Esplanade has always been a residential neighborhood. The first houses built there were relatively small, evidently workingmen's homes, or were boardinghouses. Larger structures were built in the 1860's, 1870's and later as a more prosperous class of people made their homes in the district. Many of these people were the owners and managers of the developing commercial and industrial enterprises.

The North Esplanade Historic District has always been a quiet and quality residential neighborhood. There is no neighborhood organization and no concerted preservation effort but the majority of the properties are well kept.

The unifying elements of the district include the street and the park. All key structures have a common setback and the same relationship to the park. All member structures were built prior to 1900 although some were subsequently modified. Modern siding has been added to some but the massing and proportions convey the original time period.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET 5

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

8.

Many of Leavenworth's leading businessmen and industrialists lived in the area at some time, particularly in the 1880's and 1890's. Because of the terrain it seemed removed from the area of their businesses, but yet it was only a few blocks away. Although the North Esplanade district itself probably had little effect on the historical development of the city, the people who lived there certainly were instrumental in the industrial development of the late 19th century.

The two intruding elements are 207 and 517 North Esplanade. The former is set back somewhat further than the other houses and has had many nonconforming additions and alterations. The latter is set back to the alley and is at the extreme north end of the district. Neither has a great visual impact. The boundaries of the district are rather clear cut, being determined by visual barriers more than anything else. Seneca street on the south marks the traditional beginning of the residential area; the alley behind the row of houses fronting on Esplanade marks the western line; beyond Ottawa street on the north the sharp drop of the street and a number of nonconforming structures indicate a visual change; on the east the boundary is the Missouri river bluff line where the park ends.

The houses of the North Esplanade Historic District are differentiated from other dwellings in that section of Leavenworth by their size, well-maintained appearance, well-kept yards and a common relationship to the street and park. Most are owner occupied. It is one of the most cohesive, unified neighborhoods in Leavenworth and tied together visually by the park.

9.

History of the State of Kansas (Chicago, A.T. Andreas, 1883), pp. 417 ff.

Leavenworth City Directories (assorted dates and publishers).

Taylor, David G., "Boom Town Leavenworth: The Failure of the Dream," Kansas Historical Quarterly, volume 38, number 4 (Winter, 1972), pp. 389-415.



## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barry, Louise, compiler, The Beginning of the West (Topeka, Kansas State Historical Society, 1972), pp. 141, 1227, 1228.

Douglas, Richard L., "A History of Manufactures in the Kansas District," Kansas Historical Collections, volume 11 (1909-1910), pp. 99, 117, 119, 120.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

11

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	3,3,5	3,6,0	4,3,5,4	2,7,0	B	1,5	3,3,5	4,2,5	4,3,5	3,8,8,3
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	
C	1,5	3,3,5	3,3,0	4,3,5,3	8,7,3	D	1,5	3,3,5	2,6,5	4,3,5,4	2,6,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the northwest corner of the intersection of Esplanade and Seneca, the boundary line runs westerly along the north side of the street to the alley west of Esplanade, then north along the east side of the alley for four blocks to Ottawa, then easterly along the south side of Ottawa across Esplanade to the east edge of Esplanade Park at the bluff line, then south along the east boundary of the park to a point east of the Esplanade and Seneca intersection, and then westerly to the point of beginning.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: Richard Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey  
Cornelia Wyma, Architectural Historian  
ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society  
STREET & NUMBER: 120 West 10th  
CITY OR TOWN: Topeka  
DATE: April 11, 1977  
TELEPHONE: 913-296-3251

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL ☒

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE: Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society DATE: April 28, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

## LIBRARY RESERVATION

Merritt Lake

Smith Lake

PACIFIC

Corral

Creek

Waterworks

BM

Centennial Bridge  
(Toll)

North Esplanade Historic District  
Leavenworth, Kansas

UTM Reference

A 15 335360 4354270

B 15 335425 4353883

C 15 335330 4353873

D 15 335265 4354260

LEAVENWORTH

MISSOURI

BURLINGTON

1.1 MI. TO MO. 45 ↓

PLATTE CITY	
-------------	--